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***Acontia lucida* Hufn. (Lep.: Noctuidae), the Pale Shoulder new to the Isles of Scilly and third record for British Isles.**

Following a period of gently south-easterly winds during the previous two days, we successfully recorded an interesting variety of migrants on the night of 5/6th August 1995. Included in our trap were *Palpita unionalis* Hbn. (Pyralidae), two *Rhodomestra sacraria* Linn., the Vestal (Geometridae) and singletons of the noctuids *Mythimna albipuncta* D. & S., the White Point and *Heliothis peltigera* D. & D., the Bordered Straw. At the same time both Icterine and Melodious Warblers were recorded on the island together with many more common migrant birds.

It was not until the night of 10/11th August that we were able to operate the trap again but the wait was worthwhile. The catch included another White Point, The Cosmopolitan (*Mythimna loreyi* Dup.) and an unfamiliar noctuid. We sent this specimen to Dr Frank Smith who, together with Adrian Spalding, determined it as the Pale Shoulder, *Acontia lucida*. Subsequent communications with Bernard Skinner revealed that not only was this the first record for the Isles of Scilly but only the third British record this century, the others being at West Bexington, Dorset on 5.viii.1994 and Dymchurch, Kent on the same date.

The moth has since been sent to Mr David Carter at the Natural History Museum. An examination of our mid-July to mid-August data for migrant species such as the Silver Y (*Autographa gamma* L.) and the Diamond-backed Moth (*Plutella xylostella* L.) (Figures 1 and 2) clearly indicate a large influx of moths during that period. This rise in numbers was not due to freak catching conditions as the almost uniform catches of our residents

clearly shows. Once again the incidence of large numbers of migrant moths coincided with the appearance of a variety if interesting birds. Long may it continue!— JOHN HALE and MIKE HICKS, St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly TR22 0PL.

Figure 1. Number of Silver Y, *Autographa gamma*.
Trapped mid-July to mid-August 1995
St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly.

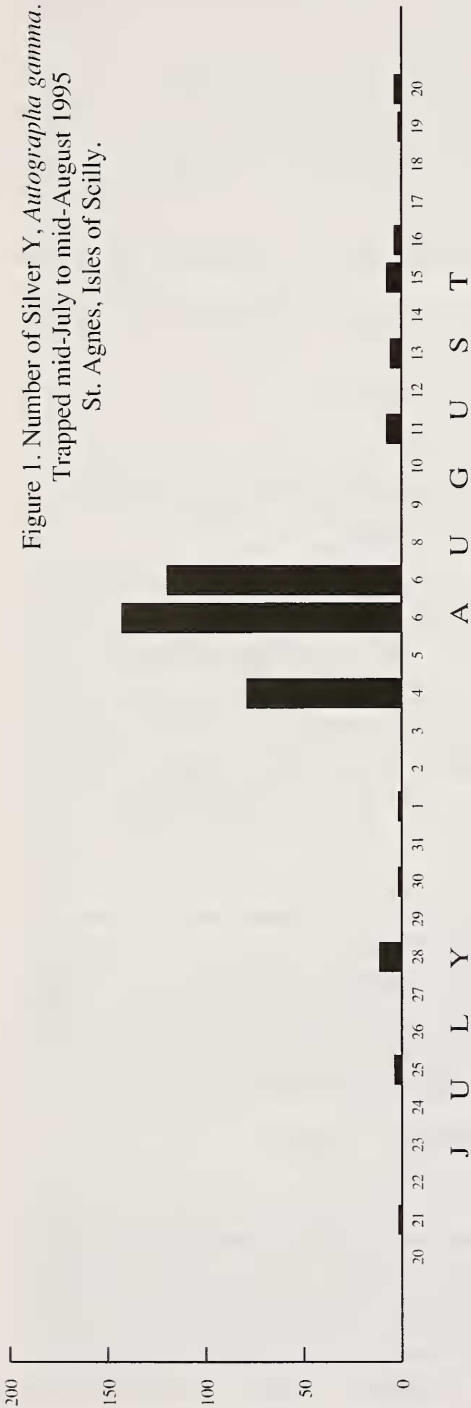


Figure 2. Number of Diamond-back, *Plutella xylostella*.
Trapped mid-July to mid-August 1995
St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly.

